

Memorandum

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK 10021-6399

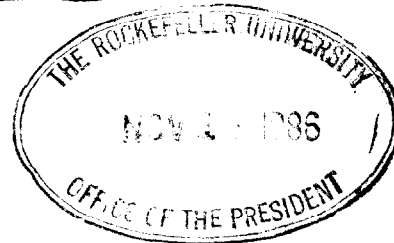
To: The Record

PRIVATE -- NOT FOR CIRCULATION

FROM: Rodney W. Nichols *RWN*

SUBJECT: Ronald Crystal

DATE: 6 November 1986



On October 10, I discussed with Purnell Choppin the possibilities of Ronald Crystal being named a Hughes Investigator.

On the substantive qualifications, Purnell said there was no doubt anywhere that Crystal was extremely bright, an excellent scientific organizer, probably the leading person in the country (if not the world) in pulmonary medicine, and a major contributor to the beginnings of general understanding of the biochemistry and genetics of pulmonary disease.

However, Choppin said that various advisers (including members of the MAB) felt that Crystal was almost "too productive" in the sense of spreading himself too thinly and not going deeply enough into any given technical topic. His very large group and his entrepreneurial instincts may produce solid activity rather than seminal contributions. In short, the review at HHMI "could go either way."

On the resources, HHMI might fund as much as one third of his present group, about 22 MDs and 13 technicians plus a few supporting helpers and secretaries. Put another way, Choppin said that HHMI was extremely unlikely to provide any single investigator with more than the funds required to support about 5 postdocs, 3 technicians, a laboratory helper, and a secretary.

In short, Purnell's advice was that the University should first make its own decisions about quality and resources, leading to a judgment about whether to make an offer and on what scale. Then, Josh could write to Fredrickson with our strong decision clearly presented, inviting HHMI to assist at a certain level in order to make the proposition most attractive all around.

cc: Joshua Lederberg ✓
Antonia M. Siddiqi